The drawings have been objected to because of informalities. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for bringing these to Applicant's attention. Formal drawings will be timely submitted upon allowance.

Claims 1-6 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 2-6 have been objected to as depending on objected claim 1.

Claims 2-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bloomfield (US 5,404,231).

Claims 15-19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and, more particularly, for the well-reasoned explanation as to the rejection with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1 and 14 and the dependencies thereunder.

After careful consideration, Applicant has canceled claims 1-6, and 15 from further examination and has amended claims 14, and 16-19 to more clearly set forth and claim Applicants' invention in light of the Examiner's remarks.

After reconsideration, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 15 into independent claim 14 so as to rewrite this claim in independent form. Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claim 14, with the incorporated subject matter presently embodied therein now stands allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and enter the above changes. Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner to allow this case to proceed to formal allowance.

Application No. 09/115,313

In the event that the Examiner finds the foregoing remarks and amendments insufficient to place all remaining claims in condition for formal allowance or if the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous in the disposition of this case, a telephonic interview is hereby solicited and the Examiner is requested to call applicant's attorney, Philip E. Blair at (716) 423-3977, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip E. Blair

Attorney For Applicant Registration No. 36,750

PEB/pn May 1, 2000 Xerox Corporation Xerox Square 20A Rochester, New York 14644